

MINUTES OF THE WATERWAYS MANAGEMENT COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday January 21, 2020 - 5:30 p.m. Dartmouth Town Hall Room 315

A meeting of the Waterways Management Commission was duly scheduled for Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 5:30 p.m. in room 315 of Dartmouth Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Hickey. Present were members: Gerald Hickey, Roger Race, Andy Herlihy, Geoff Marshall, Kevin Murphy, and Patty Sweriduk. Also present was Steven Melo, Harbormaster.

Mr. Hickey reviewed the Agenda for the meeting. It was moved by Roger Race and seconded by Andy Herlihy to accept the Agenda. The motion to accept the Agenda was approved. The minutes of the last meeting of December 20, 2019 were reviewed and discussed. Following two corrections (year 2012 should be 2020 in first sentence of A, and typo under paragraph H), it was moved by Kevin Murphy and seconded by Roger Race to accept and post the minutes as presented. All approved.

- A. Capital Projects:** Patty Sweriduk wants the Harbormaster to communicate with whomever he needs to before the waterways ability to spend the allocated boat funds are called into question. It was suggested that seeking direction by email to come up with a proper course of action might be best. All were in favor of moving forward with the capital projects as planned.
- B. Disposition of Surplus:** At the direction of the Town Administrator, the Department was successful in auctioning off the Tripp Angler formerly used as a pump-out boat, the Ambar patrol boat, and the Department Humvee. These were all listed for auction in the manner directed by the Town to satisfy MGL Ch 30B. The Humvee will be replaced by the used Chief's SUV to be purchased from Fire District One. The Ambar will be replaced by the approved new patrol boat purchase.
- C. Grants Activity:** Kevin Murphy told the Commission that Chairman Mickelson is on-board with the use of Urban Harbors Institute (UHI of UMass Boston) to complete the Dias Marina feasibility study. Mr. Melo reported that the Town Administrator expressed a desire to see the award go through a request for proposal exercise to determine who should do that project. That discrepancy will need to be resolved in the near future. Another Sea Port Economic Council grant application is anticipated for \$120,000 to \$125,000 for preliminary dredging work. This grant also comes with a 20% match requirement, but will provide feasibility, engineering and permitting to develop a shovel-ready dredge project for Padanaram Harbor and the Dias Landing Launch ramps. Once this all is in place, it is anticipated that further State grants will help fund the dredging necessary to restore the deep-draft abilities of the launch facility. The estimated cost of @ \$125,000 came from discussions with Susan Nilsen of CLE-Foth Engineering. Kevin Murphy said he will get that estimate in writing. Mr. Murphy also relayed that he had discussions with Mr. Mickelson to the effect that the Town would commit to funding the 20% match for this endeavor. Mr. Hickey wants to prepare a letter to the Select Board for their next meeting seeking their approval of a pursuit of this next grant. Roger Race made a motion to have Mr. Hickey write that letter to the Select Board. Andy Herlihy seconded that motion which was approved unanimously.
- D. Maritime Center:** Mr. Hickey re-sent an email to Deborah Wender regarding the Waterways requested punch-list for whatever funds might be remaining on the Maritime Center project. There has still been no response to date and the amount of unused state grant funds remains in question. Requested additions to the Center included shower benches for dry dressing, mirrors and waste receptacles in the shower rooms, minor landscaping to screen the pump equipment and open east end of the building, an upgraded waste pump to manage the longer float length. Final deadline for use of the allotted funds remains June 2020.
- E. Dias Landing:** Kevin Murphy got some quotes from Pioneer Mooring to install the former pump-out floats into a workable dinghy dock configuration off the Town Pier. There was some discussion over what the best configuration might be for arrangement of those floats. Several options were still drawn on the chalkboard of the meeting room from a meeting early in 2019. Roger Race favors the straight-line configuration extending east of the pier end. Based upon the height of the constructed floats, a discussion ensued as to the best uses for the floats. The height at which the float deck rests above the waterline makes hauling dinghies up out of the water difficult. Alongside dockage might be more practical, but enforcing proper usage and rain-water removal could be cumbersome for staff. Nothing

more has been conveyed regarding installation of cameras by the company that the Town Administrator has hired for all remaining Town buildings. The erosion of the north edge of the parking lot remains in the hands of the State Public Access Board with no timeline for obtaining funding announced. Several parking spaces have been lost or reduced by the erosion caused by the missing seawall stones. The stones removed from the causeway during reconstruction were denied for use in that area of the landing, but they would have preserved the asphalt surface.

- F. Allen Street and Former Police Station Properties:** Despite the existence of a signed memorandum of understanding for shared use of the Allen Street garage facility, the Town Administrator has directed the Harbormaster to remove all boats, trailers and other Waterways property from Allen Street to behind the former Police station, temporarily. At the direction of Town Administrator MacInnes, Mr. Melo has moved all boats on trailers, and empty trailers out of the facility on Allen Street that was supposed to be shared by Parks, Waterways and DCTV. They have been “temporarily” stationed at the old police station lot until it is decided what should happen to that property. No mention has been made of what will become of the prior Memorandum that was executed for the shared use of Allen Street.
- G. Rogers Street Update:** The pre-fab ramp installation under the Bouchard Oil Spill grant funding application submitted by the Harbormaster was assigned to the Conservation Agent by the former Town Administrator. Materials were delivered, but construction has been delayed until late spring. At one of the bi-weekly meetings between Harbormaster and T.A., Administrator MacInnes wanted the Waterways Commission to “re-focus” on that area. Discussion was tabled until the usefulness of a launch ramp can be evaluated.
- H. Harbor Management Plan Implementation:** The Town Administrator suggested that the next step would be for Waterways to develop a task implementation proposal. After much discussion, Roger Race has identified as the “sanctioned Harbor Plan facilitator” for implementation of the Harbor Management Plan as adopted by the Select Board. Roger will lead implementation efforts for various goals and efforts. Water Quality will be the biggest issue to be tackled next. He acknowledged that this issue is not “low-hanging” and not easiest, but very important. Select Board member Tatelbaum expressed his opinion to Mr. Race that nobody other than Waterways will, or should take the tiller on implementation. Mr. Brian O’Hare stated from the audience that logging of progress on the Plan is important. Patty Sweriduck moves, and Geoff Marshall seconds that the Waterways appoint Roger Race as “facilitator” and Waterways Representative on all things related to Harbor Plan Implementation. All voted unanimously in favor. Next issue up will be improving water quality.
- I. HM Office/Staffing:** The Harbormaster has requested the posting of the Seasonal Assistant, Pumpout boat operator, and clerical assistant positions. The Town Administrator will allow posting of only the Seasonal Assistant position. It is hoped that processing of any applicants by Town Hall will be better than experienced last season.
- J. Public Comment:** none
- K. Next Meeting Schedule:** The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 14, 2020, unless a meeting is needed prior to that date.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.